



# The Hour

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### JAPAN INTENSIFIES PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES IN U. S.

For the last few weeks Japanese propagandists in the United States have been working overtime. The recent setbacks administered to Hirohito's armies by the Chinese and the growing sentiment in America against the Nipponese war-makers have been factors contributing to the intensification of Japan's propaganda efforts in this country. It is estimated that Japanese expenditures for propaganda in the United States have risen to more than half a million dollars a month.

In this campaign, a variety of agencies are publicizing the glories of the land of the Rising Sun and proclaiming the "justice" of the invasion of China. Among the most active official Japanese organizations are the Society for International Cultural Relations, the Institute for the Education of Overseas Japanese and the Central Board of Overseas Associations. These three agencies, working chiefly among foreign-born Japanese, have their headquarters at Tokyo and branches throughout the world. Count Aisuke Kabayama, former head of the Society for International Cultural Relations, established swank offices in Rockefeller Center, New York City. Today, these offices get their orders for distribution of U. S. propaganda material from Matsuzo Nagai, ex-ambassador to Germany and present head of the Society.

A former Japanese ambassador to the United States, Viscount Kikujiro Ishii, is president of the Institute for the Education of Overseas Japanese. The professed aim of the Institute, as stated in its official handbook, is "to educate the children of Japanese living abroad." The purposes of the organization are perhaps more adequately summed up in Ishii's comment:

"The Institute ... is an organization for infusing the Japanese spirit into the second generation of Japanese abroad. In other words, leave the second generation in the land of their residence but don't let them forget the Japanese spirit."

The Central Board of Overseas Associations, which has similar if somewhat broader aims, directs and coordinates the activities of Japanese "Overseas Societies." Its members are trained in "knowledge and experience in overseas expansion." Working closely with the Central Board and the other organizations are Japanese tourist bureaus, information libraries, and railroad and steamship companies. Japanese Chambers of Commerce are particularly diligent in spreading the message of the Mikado.

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## Nazi Aid

In their propaganda activities, the Japanese receive friendly aid from other Axis representatives. The German-American Bund distributes Nipponese material arriving on the West Coast, much of which finds its way to the Los Angeles Deutsche Haus. The Bund newspaper, Deutsche Weckruf und Beobachter, offers a generous amount of space to propaganda from Tokyo.

The Japanese, of course, return such favors. On November 9, The Hour disclosed that the United States had been flooded with fresh quantities of Nazi propaganda material. The Hour has since learned that this material was brought in by Japanese boats which, loaded with anti-Semitic and pro-fascist literature from the Third Reich, have recently been docking in West Coast ports and delivering their cargoes to Nazi agents in this country.

## Fascist Italian and White Guard Russians Assist

Italian fascists are no less helpful in spreading Japanese "news." Il Progresso Italo-Americano, the New York Italian daily published by the influential Generoso Pope (see page 3 of this issue of The Hour), is full of kind words for Tokyo's military dictatorship. In describing the blessings of the Mikado's latest imperialistic ventures, this newspaper points out that since the Japanese, like the Italians, are so "considerate" in their treatment of conquered peoples, they "will run into no serious trouble when they wish to occupy Indo-China, hastening the fall of the French Empire and gaining new ground in their great program of expansion."

Additional pro-Japanese publicity comes from the White Russians. The pro-fascist Russian newspaper Rossiya, published and edited in New York by Nikolai P. Rybakoff (see The Hour for August 3 and 31), carries enthusiastic articles on the "great military deeds" of Japan. Fascist Russians, serving as Japanese agents, make regular contributions to its pages. Constantine Radzaevsky and G. M. Semenov are two such contributors. Their articles, usually sent from the White Russian colony at Harbin, Japan, contain vicious attacks on democracy and describe the United States as a country controlled by "Judeo-Masons."

## American Defenders of Japanese Imperialism

The native U. S. Fifth Column is performing yeoman service for the Japanese. Outstanding in this field is Ralph Townsend of San Francisco, California, author of the rabidly anti-Chinese book, Asia Answers. Townsend, who receives regular orders from the Japanese Chamber of Commerce for quantity lots of his pamphlets, is an expert at describing the saintly qualities of Japanese imperialism. His latest pamphlet, Seeking Foreign Trouble, is being quoted by every American fascist of any consequence. According to James True, dean of U. S. anti-Semites, this Townsend work answers "one of the Nation's greatest needs." The leaders of the Christian Front are of the same mind and are hawking Seeking Foreign Trouble along with Social Justice.

Peter Stahrenberg, head of the pro-Nazi American Nationalist Press of New York City, is another key publicist for the Japanese. His most recent contribution, a pamphlet entitled War? Americans Must Think!, poses this question: "Do You Want a Bolshevized China?" and goes on to declare that,



"Japan is waging our battle for civilization ... and if Americans realized the dangers they would be shipping munitions to Japan free."

Stahrenberg's treatment of the subject has so favorably impressed Charles B. Hudson of Omaha, Nebraska, editor of the anti-democratic bulletin America In Danger, that the latter is distributing a pamphlet of his own which borrows whole sections from Stahrenberg's text. Hudson, however, is a little more conservative than the New York fascist and has made a few changes in the lifted passages. For example, he has emended the last part of the above quotation to: "... if the Americans realized the danger they would make a commercial treaty with Japan at once."

William Dudley Pelley, Silver Shirt fuehrer and editor of the pro-Nazi Liberator, now writes in his magazine long articles that claim the "Jewish Internationalists" are to blame for all dissension in the Far East. Charles W. Phillips, editor of the fascist bulletin, The Individualist, devotes whole issues of his publication to censuring the United States for "lack of cooperation" with the Nipponese; he refers his readers, for further clarification, to the works of gentleman-fascist John B. Snow of New York City. Robert Edward Edmondson, foremost Fifth Column pamphleteer, has issued a leaflet entitled Why Should U. S. Fight Japan For John Bull? "What has Japan done to the United States?" demands Edmondson in this leaflet. "It is one of our best customers. Why should America boycott and blockade that nation ...? Why such cock-eyed diplomacy?"

Most impressive of the recent pro-Japanese pieces of propaganda is a book just published by William J. Baxter, president of the International Economic Research Bureau, 76 William Street, New York City. The large handsomely-bound volume is called Japan And America MUST Get Together!. On the cover is the statement that: "Every American must read this book to learn: The truth about Japan's amazing progress. ... Why America and not Nazi Germany should be Japan's partner." The book describes the Japanese as the "Henry Fords of Asia" and is devoted to eulogizing the aims and accomplishments of their present government. The book includes lengthy quotations from Ralph Townsend and is replete with photographs issued by Japanese propaganda bureaus. The Chinese people are pictured by Mr. Baxter as being thieves, wastrels and degenerates, among whom Japan is carrying on heroic missionary work. In a chart listing the "Good Character Credits" of the "Rising Empire" of Japan, Mr. Baxter mentions: "Long Hours and Hard Work, Absence of Labor Unions." Formerly Mr. William J. Baxter was president of an organization known as the Silk Research Bureau of America. Apparently, his propaganda efforts are not disassociated from his business interests.

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#### PATRIOTISM OF GENEROSO POPE

On November 10, Dr. Walter Scott Neff asked Governor Lehman to remove from one of New York City's thirteen draft appeal boards Generoso Pope, president of the large Colonial Sand and Stone Company, member of the Democratic National Committee, and publisher of two Italian dailies in New York, Il Progresso Italo-Americano and Il Corriere d'America. Charging that Mr. Pope was a "Fascist sympathizer and spokesman for Mussolini" and that his newspapers had frequently shown contempt for democracy. Dr. Neff said in a letter to the Governor "Under these circumstances it is unthinkable



able that Generoso Pope should continue to serve as a member of a draft appeal board -- a board which may be called upon to decide who shall and who shall not serve in the United States Army."

Mr. Pope has since issued a statement to the press, declaring the charges made by Dr. Neff to be false and saying, "I have never been a spokesman for Mussolini, the Fascist Government of Italy or any other foreign government." Mr. Pope states he is a patriotic American and that having been appointed to so responsible a position as membership on a draft board, he will give to it "the highest measure of devotion and service." These views are reiterated in front-page editorials written by Mr. Pope for his two newspapers.

The Hour has carried several articles dealing with the activities of Generoso Pope. In our issue of July 6, we told of the respect that Mussolini had for Pope's publications, which have carried on consistent propagandizing for Italian Fascism. We pointed out that Il Duce, in fact, regards these publications as practically his own, since "Italian laws forbid Italian subjects to work as correspondents of foreign papers, yet the Rome office of Mr. Pope's papers is staffed with Italian subjects."

The admiration seems reciprocal. The two papers, which have frequently reprinted editorials written in Italy under the guidance of the Fascist Ministry of Propaganda, have carried such descriptions of Mussolini as "the Man who brought the Fortune of Italy back to the glorious paths of the Legions of Caesar, of Il Duce, Founder of the New Roman Empire."

The doings of Italian fascists in the United States have been affectionately followed by Mr. Pope's journals. A typical example is the following passage from Il Progresso Italo-Americano:

"Yesterday ... Mr. Spatuzza spoke in Blue Island. It was the birthday of Rome. Mr. Spatuzza glorified the Man, who, born of the people and defender of the people, has created a new Rome. Mr. Spatuzza proudly described the formidable patrimony of Fascist power of which the new Rome boasts ... Often, out of homage to the new Rome, Giovinezza [official Fascist hymn] was played."

Il Progresso Italo-Americano tells how Italy has created "two great Empires, the Roman Empire and the Fascist Empire." When Italian consuls (whose work as Italian fascist agents has recently been well publicized in the American press) have urged Italian-Americans "to be strongly united and vigilant, ready to answer the call of the First Soldier of Italy," Il Progresso Italo-Americano has declared: "Let us rally, all of us, around our royal imperial consulate to affirm once and forever our will to triumph."

Mr. Pope's publications have recently undergone a metamorphosis and have issued declarations of affection for "Democracy." This tactic is today characteristic of the majority of fascist propaganda organs in this country.

There is no doubt that Generoso Pope is an excellent contractor, a gifted businessman (Fortune magazine has called him one of the most successful in New York), and a shrewd politician. But has he a claim to the title of defender of Democracy, which he is now bestowing upon himself? On the contrary, it would seem his legitimate claim is to the title of defender of Fascism.